

RECOGNIZING FORMER FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA

(Ms. SCANLON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important work being done by our former First Lady, Michelle Obama, through her Pass the Love campaign.

In collaboration with the Partnership for a Healthier America, Mrs. Obama has been on a mission to distribute one million healthy meals to families in need.

Last week, we learned that Philadelphia, part of my district, has been selected as the next city for this campaign.

Pass the Love will work with Philabundance—a local leader in hunger alleviation—to deliver healthy meal kits to 5,000 families. Over the course of 4 weeks, they will provide 240,000 meals to families experiencing food insecurity.

Children in Philadelphia and across America are hungry.

Creative initiatives like this one from the former First Lady should be lauded for what they do, but they cannot solve this systemic issue on their own.

Our country has every resource required to eradicate hunger. We can and must make the decision to end hunger in America now.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

ENERGY EMERGENCY LEADERSHIP ACT

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3119) to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act with respect to functions assigned to Assistant Secretaries, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3119

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Energy Emergency Leadership Act”.

SEC. 2. FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED TO ASSISTANT SECRETARIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 203(a) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7133(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(12) Energy emergency and energy security functions, including—

“(A) responsibilities with respect to infrastructure, cybersecurity, emerging threats, supply, and emergency planning, coordination, response, and restoration; and

“(B) upon request of a State, local, or tribal government or energy sector entity, and in consultation with other Federal agencies as appropriate, provision of technical assistance, support, and response capabilities with respect to energy security threats, risks, and incidents.”.

(b) COORDINATION.—The Secretary of Energy shall ensure that the functions of the Secretary described in section 203(a)(12) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (as added by this Act) are performed in coordination with relevant Federal agencies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3119.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3119, the Energy Emergency Leadership Act. This legislation and the two other energy bills that will follow it are bipartisan bills that will protect our energy grid from cyberattacks. All three of these bills passed the House last Congress but were never taken up in the Senate. That must change this year as the need for this legislation becomes more important by the day.

We have heard repeatedly from security experts and regulators over the last few years that our energy infrastructure and grid are being attacked by state actors or other entities. Indeed, just 2 months ago, large parts of this country suffered from gas shortages after a ransomware attack on the Colonial Pipeline.

Former Energy Secretary Perry took the first step toward addressing the increasing risk of cyberattacks on our energy infrastructure by creating the Cybersecurity and Energy Security Emergency Response office, or CESER, as it is pronounced. He then enhanced its stature by making its leader an assistant secretary.

So H.R. 3119 would amend section 203(a) of the Department of Energy Organization Act by establishing in statute the new assistant secretary position responsible for cybersecurity and emergency response issues.

This bill also makes clear that this assistant secretary would have jurisdiction over all energy emergency and security functions related to energy supply, infrastructure, and cybersecurity.

It also vests the assistant secretary with the authority to provide DOE

technical assistance and support to State, local, or Tribal governments upon request.

And it requires the assistant secretary and the Department of Energy to coordinate with the Department of Homeland Security and other relevant Federal agencies in carrying out the bill's provisions. CESER performed this role admirably in May when it coordinated the whole-of-government response to the Colonial Pipeline attack.

By codifying an assistant secretary for cybersecurity and emergency response issues, this bill would go a long way in helping to protect the Nation's electric infrastructure from hackers and other bad actors who would attempt to disrupt our energy grid and harm our economy, our daily lives, and our overall national security. It would also appropriately raise the stature of the CESER office and provide more accountability over the vital functions with a lead person tasked with carrying them out.

I commend Energy Subcommittee Chairman BOBBY RUSH and Representative WALBERG for their bipartisan effort to protect our energy infrastructure. This bipartisan cooperation is essential as we continue to work to defend our country from the threat of cyberattacks. I also thank Ranking Member RODGERS and Energy Subcommittee Ranking Member UPTON for working with us to move this bill and the other two cybersecurity bills that will follow.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3119, the Energy Emergency Leadership Act.

This bill, sponsored by Representatives RUSH and WALBERG, has strong bipartisan support, and passed on suspension last Congress.

The bill is necessary to strengthen the Department of Energy's important energy emergency mission.

It does so by requiring that the well-established energy emergency and cybersecurity functions at DOE are organized under the leadership of an assistant secretary confirmed by the Senate.

Three-and-one-half years ago, Secretary of Energy Perry recognized the importance of elevating this position within the Department.

He established an assistant secretary-led office, the Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response, which proved its worth in various situations over the past 2 years, including assistance relating to hurricanes and the recent Colonial Pipeline ransomware attack.

This bill amends the Department of Energy Organization Act to establish in law this assistant secretary level of leadership of DOE's emergency response and cybersecurity functions.

This bill will ensure the Department has the focused and accountable leadership to protect the public more fully

from fuel and electricity supply disruptions against all hazards, natural or man-made, including emerging threats from our foreign adversaries to the Nation's electric grid.

The bill has been drafted to ensure the Department carries out its responsibility in coordination with other agencies by improving coordination across the Department; ensuring more effective interagency collaborations; and increasing accountability to Congress.

Establishing accountable leadership of this DOE mission is an important step in the face of increased threats, vulnerabilities, and interdependencies of energy infrastructure and end-use systems.

Protecting energy security requires defense in depth.

This means a strong energy sector, strong state capabilities, and ensuring sector agencies, like the Department of Energy, have the tools and accountable leadership they need to respond to energy emergencies.

A vote for H.R. 3119 is a vote for ensuring accountable DOE leadership over energy emergencies for the benefit of public safety and welfare and for stronger cybersecurity protections and energy systems.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG), one of the coleads on this legislation.

□ 1415

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend for yielding and allowing me the opportunity to speak.

I rise today in support of H.R. 3119, the Energy Emergency Leadership Act. I thank my good friend from Illinois, Mr. BOBBY RUSH, for continuing to work with me to get this bill across the finish line.

This is the third Congress in a row that we have introduced this bill, each time passing the Committee on Energy and Commerce with unanimous, bipartisan support.

And frankly, given what we have seen just over the last few months in disruptions to our energy supply—including the Colonial Pipeline attack—it is well past due for this important energy security measure to be enacted in law.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's economy and the health and safety of the American public depend upon the reliable and uninterrupted supply of fuels and electricity.

Hazards of all forms—including natural disasters, digital, and cyberattacks—are no longer just threats. They are occurring at an alarming and continuing rate.

Whether it is power outages in Texas and California due to weather events, or foreign adversaries hacking into our pipelines or grid, it is critical that we

better equip our Federal agencies to prevent and respond to attacks in a way that fully protects the public.

Presidential administrations of both parties have recognized this by providing the Department of Energy with the responsibilities, expertise, and tools to ensure the reliable supply of energy.

It is time Congress does its part by requiring the energy emergency and cybersecurity functions at DOE to be organized under the leadership of an assistant secretary confirmed by the Senate. This will ensure the Department has focused and accountable leadership with high-level continuity throughout future administrations.

H.R. 3119 will encourage more effective and seamless information-sharing with Federal and industry stakeholders on energy security threats, risks, and incidents, as well as recovery and response.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 3119 in order to protect our Nation's electric infrastructure from foreign adversaries who are attempting to disrupt our energy system and cause untold harm to our economy, our daily lives, and our national security.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank Representative WALBERG and Representative BOBBY RUSH for their work on this very important legislation because, again, it is going to ensure that the Department of Energy has the focus and the accountable leadership to more fully protect the public from any electricity fuel supply disruptions against all hazards—natural or manmade—including emerging threats from our foreign adversaries to our Nation's electric grid.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I thank both sides of the aisle, Mr. LATTA and others, for their help in getting this bill moved.

Mr. Speaker, again, I would ask support for the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3119.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ENHANCING GRID SECURITY THROUGH PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS ACT

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2931) to provide for certain programs and developments in the Department of Energy concerning the cyber-

security and vulnerabilities of, and physical threats to, the electric grid, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2931

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Enhancing Grid Security through Public-Private Partnerships Act”.

SEC. 2. PROGRAM TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE PHYSICAL SECURITY AND CYBERSECURITY OF ELECTRIC UTILITIES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Energy, in coordination with relevant Federal agencies and in consultation with State regulatory authorities, industry stakeholders, and the Electric Reliability Organization, as the Secretary determines appropriate, shall carry out a program to—

(1) develop, and provide for voluntary implementation of, maturity models, self-assessments, and auditing methods for assessing the physical security and cybersecurity of electric utilities;

(2) provide training to electric utilities to address and mitigate cybersecurity supply chain management risks;

(3) increase opportunities for sharing best practices and data collection within the electric sector;

(4) assist with cybersecurity training for electric utilities;

(5) advance the cybersecurity of third-party vendors that work in partnerships with electric utilities; and

(6) provide technical assistance for electric utilities subject to the program.

(b) SCOPE.—In carrying out the program under subsection (a), the Secretary of Energy shall—

(1) take into consideration different sizes of electric utilities and the regions that such electric utilities serve;

(2) prioritize electric utilities with fewer available resources due to size or region; and

(3) to the extent practicable, utilize and leverage existing Department of Energy programs.

(c) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—Information provided to, or collected by, the Federal Government pursuant to this section—

(1) shall be exempt from disclosure under section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) shall not be made available by any Federal, State, political subdivision or tribal authority pursuant to any Federal, State, political subdivision, or tribal law requiring public disclosure of information or records.

SEC. 3. REPORT ON CYBERSECURITY AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy, in coordination with relevant Federal agencies and in consultation with State regulatory authorities, industry stakeholders, and the Electric Reliability Organization, as the Secretary determines appropriate, shall submit to Congress a report that assesses—

(1) priorities, policies, procedures, and actions for enhancing the physical security and cybersecurity of electricity distribution systems to address threats to, and vulnerabilities of, such electricity distribution systems; and

(2) implementation of such priorities, policies, procedures, and actions, including an estimate of potential costs and benefits of such implementation, including any public-private cost-sharing opportunities.

(b) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—Information provided to, or collected by, the Federal Government pursuant to this section—